

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt, the method comprising the acts of
passing a fiberglass insulation blanket through an interval cutter to cut the fiberglass insulation blanket along a cut line to form two side-by-side strips separated by a series of intermittent gaps to form a frangible plane extending along the cut line, wherein the act of passing comprises the acts of discharging a flow of high-pressure fluid to intercept and penetrate the fiberglass insulation blanket along the cut line to form a gap in the fiberglass insulation blanket as the fiberglass insulation blanket is passed through the interval cutter and interrupting the flow of high-pressure fluid intermittently as the fiberglass insulation blanket is passed through the interval cutter to divert the flow of high-pressure fluid from intercepting and penetrating the fiberglass insulation blank intermittently to establish the series of intermittent gaps in the fiberglass insulation blanket.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of passing includes the act of moving the fiberglass insulation blanket in a conveyance direction relative to the interval cutter and the act of interrupting includes the acts of moving a fluid blocker relative to the fiberglass insulation blanket to intercept the flow of high-pressure fluid discharged toward the fiberglass insulation blanket to block the flow of high-pressure fluid from intercepting the fiberglass insulation blanket.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the act of interrupting includes the act of oscillating the fluid blocker along a path relative to the fiberglass insulation blanket between a first position placing a blocking surface included in the fluid blocker in a location between an outlet discharging the flow of high-pressure fluid and the fiberglass insulation blanket to cause the flow of high-pressure fluid to impinge upon the blocking surface and a second position allowing the flow of high-pressure fluid to pass through a slot formed in the fluid blocker to intercept and penetrate the fiberglass insulation blanket to establish a first in the series of intermittent gaps.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the path along which the fluid blocker oscillates is perpendicular to the conveyance direction in which the fiberglass insulation blanket is moved.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of interrupting further includes the act of collecting high-pressure fluid after impingement of said high-pressure fluid on the blocking surface of the fluid blocker in a reservoir located above the fiberglass insulation blanket.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of interrupting further includes the act of conducting high-pressure fluid that has impinged upon the blocking surface away from the fiberglass insulation blanket.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the act of interrupting includes the act of oscillating the fluid blocker along a path relative to the fiberglass insulation blanket between a first position placing a blocking surface included in the fluid blocker between an outlet discharging the flow of high-pressure fluid and the fiberglass insulation blanket to cause the flow of high-pressure fluid to impinge upon the blocking surface, a second position allowing the flow of high-pressure fluid to pass through a first fluid-discharge slot formed in the fluid blocker to intercept and penetrate the fiberglass insulation blanket to establish a first in the series of intermittent gaps, and a third position allowing the flow of high-pressure fluid to pass through a second fluid-discharge slot formed in the fluid blocker to intercept and penetrate the fiberglass insulation blanket to establish a second in the series of intermittent gaps.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the fluid blocker is configured to locate the blocking surface between the first and second fluid-discharge slots.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the act of oscillating includes the acts of, in series, urging the fluid blocker to move in a first direction from the first position to the second position, urging the fluid blocker to move in an opposite second direction from the second position to the first position and then to the third position, and urging the fluid blocker to move in the first direction from the third position to the first position.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the path along which the fluid blocker oscillates is perpendicular to the conveyance direction in which the fiberglass insulation blanket is moved.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the act of interrupting further includes the act of collecting high-pressure fluid after impingement of said high-

pressure fluid on the blocking surface of the fluid blocker in a reservoir located above the fiberglass insulation blanket.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the act of interrupting further includes the act of conducting high-pressure fluid that has impinged upon the blocking surface away from the fiberglass insulation blanket.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of interrupting includes the acts of, in series, locating a fluid blocker formed to include elongated first and second fluid-discharge slots and a blocking surface located between the elongated first and second fluid-discharge slots in a fluid-blocking position to cause the flow of high-pressure fluid discharged toward the fiberglass insulation blanket to impinge upon the blocking surface to block the flow of high-pressure fluid from intercepting and penetrating the fiberglass insulation blanket, urging the fluid blocker to move in a first direction from the fluid-blocking position to a first outer limit position to allow the flow of high-pressure fluid to flow through the elongated first fluid-discharge slot to form a leading section of a first in the series of intermittent gaps, urging the fluid blocker to move in an opposite second direction from the first outer limit position toward the fluid-blocking position to allow the flow of high-pressure fluid to continue to flow through the first fluid-discharge slot to form a trailing section of the first in the series of intermittent gaps, urging the fluid blocker to continue to move in the opposite second direction to the fluid-blocking position to cause the flow of high-pressure fluid to impinge upon the blocking surface to block the flow of high-pressure fluid from intercepting and penetrating the fiberglass insulation blanket, urging the fluid blocker to continue to move in the opposite second direction from the fluid-blocking position to a second outer limit position to allow the flow of high-pressure fluid to flow through the elongated second fluid-discharge slot to form a leading section of a second in the series of intermittent gaps, urging the fluid blocker to move in the first direction from the second outer limit position toward the fluid-blocking position to allow flow of high-pressure fluid to continue to flow through the second fluid-discharge slot to form a trailing section of the second in the series of intermittent gaps, and urging the blocker to continue to move in the first direction to the fluid-blocking position to cause the flow of high-pressure fluid to impinge upon the

blocking surface to block the flow of high-pressure fluid from intercepting and penetrating the fiberglass insulation blanket.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein each of the first direction and the opposite second direction is perpendicular to the conveyance direction.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of interrupting further includes the act of interrupting further includes the act of collecting high-pressure fluid after impingement of said high-pressure fluid on the blocking surface of the fluid blocker in a reservoir located above the fiberglass insulation blanket.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of interrupting further includes the act of interrupting further includes the act of conducting high-pressure fluid that has impinged upon the blocking surface away from the fiberglass insulation blanket.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of then passing the two side-by-side strips through a curing oven to expose the strips to a predetermined fiberglass curing heat extant in the curing oven to cause binder extant in the fiberglass insulation blanket to polymerize to establish a frangible bridge spanning each of the series of intermittent gaps in the fiberglass insulation blanket.

18. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt, the method comprising the acts of

moving a fiberglass insulation blanket in a conveyance direction and
applying a first flow of high-pressure fluid to the moving fiberglass insulation blanket intermittently to establish a first series of intermittent gaps cooperating to define a first frangible plane in the fiberglass insulation blanket.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the act of applying a second flow of high-pressure fluid to the moving fiberglass insulation blanket intermittently to establish a second series of gaps cooperating to define a second frangible plane in the fiberglass insulation blanket.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the act of moving the fiberglass insulation blanket through a curing oven after the applying act to expose the fiberglass insulation blanket to a predetermined fiberglass curing heat extant in the curing oven to cause binder extant in the fiberglass insulation blanket to polymerize to establish a frangible bridge spanning each of the first series of intermittent gaps.

21. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt, the method comprising the acts of

moving a fiberglass insulation blanket in a conveyance direction, aiming a flow of high-pressure fluid toward the fiberglass insulation blanket, and

oscillating a fluid blocker for movement relative to the flow of high-pressure fluid through a movement cycle comprising, in series, a first position interrupting the flow of high-pressure fluid, a second position allowing the flow of high-pressure fluid to intercept and penetrate the moving fiberglass insulation blanket to establish a first gap in a series of intermittent gaps, the first position, and a third position allowing the flow of high-pressure fluid to intercept and penetrate the moving fiberglass insulation blanket to establish a second gap in the series of intermittent gaps.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the oscillating act includes the act of repeating the movement cycle to establish additional gaps in the series of intermittent gaps to define a frangible plane extending along the fiberglass insulation blanket.

23. Apparatus comprising a conveyor adapted to support and move a fiberglass insulation blanket in a conveyance direction,

a fluid-reservoir tray supported in an elevated position above the conveyor and formed to include a fluid-discharge aperture opening toward the conveyor,

a fluid discharger configured to discharge a high-pressure fluid through the fluid-discharge aperture normally to intercept and penetrate a fiberglass insulation blanket supported on the conveyor,

a fluid blocker positioned to lie between the fluid discharger and the fluid-reservoir tray and formed to include a first fluid-discharge slot and a blocking surface, the fluid blocker being mounted for movement relative to the fluid-reservoir tray from a first position to cause high-pressure fluid discharged by the fluid discharger to impinge the blocking surface without passing through the fluid-discharge aperture formed in the fluid-reservoir tray to a second position to cause

high-pressure fluid discharged by the fluid discharger to pass in sequence through the first fluid-discharge slot and through the fluid-discharge aperture to intercept and penetrate a fiberglass insulation blanket supported on the conveyor, and

a blocker mover coupled to the fluid blocker and configured to move the fluid blocker between the first and second positions during movement of a fiberglass insulation blanket on the conveyor in the conveyance direction.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the fluid blocker further includes a second fluid-discharge slot, the blocking surface is positioned to lie between the first and second fluid-discharge slots, and the fluid blocker is also mounted for movement relative to the fluid-reservoir tray to a third position to cause high-pressure fluid discharged by the fluid discharger to pass in sequence through the second fluid-discharge slot and through the fluid-discharge aperture to intercept and penetrate a fiberglass insulation blanket supported on the conveyor.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the blocker mover is also configured to move the fluid blocker between the first and third positions during movement of a fiberglass insulation blanket on the conveyor in the conveyance direction.

26. Apparatus comprising

a conveyor adapted to support and move a fiberglass insulation blanket in a conveyance direction,

a fluid-reservoir tray supported in an elevated position above the conveyor and formed to include a fluid-discharge aperture opening toward the conveyor,

a fluid discharger configured to discharge a high-pressure fluid through the fluid-discharge aperture normally to intercept and penetrate a fiberglass insulation blanket supported on the conveyor,

a fluid blocker positioned to lie between the fluid discharger and the fluid-reservoir tray and formed to include a first fluid-discharge slot, a second fluid-discharge slot, and a blocking surface located between the first and second fluid-discharge slots, the fluid blocker being mounted for movement relative to the fluid-reservoir tray between a first position to cause high-pressure fluid discharged by the fluid discharger to impinge the blocking surface without passing through the fluid-

discharge aperture formed in the fluid-reservoir tray, a second position to cause high-pressure fluid discharged by the fluid discharger to pass in sequence through the first fluid-discharge slot and through the fluid-discharge aperture to intercept and penetrate a fiberglass insulation blanket supported on the conveyor, and a third position to cause high-pressure fluid discharged by the fluid discharger to pass in sequence through the second fluid-discharge slot and through the fluid-discharge aperture to intercept and penetrate a fiberglass insulation blanket supported on the conveyor, and

an oscillator coupled to the fluid blocker and configured to oscillate the fluid blocker relative to the fluid-reservoir tray in sequence in a first direction from the third position to the first position and then to the second position and then in an opposite second direction from the second position to the first position and then to the third position.